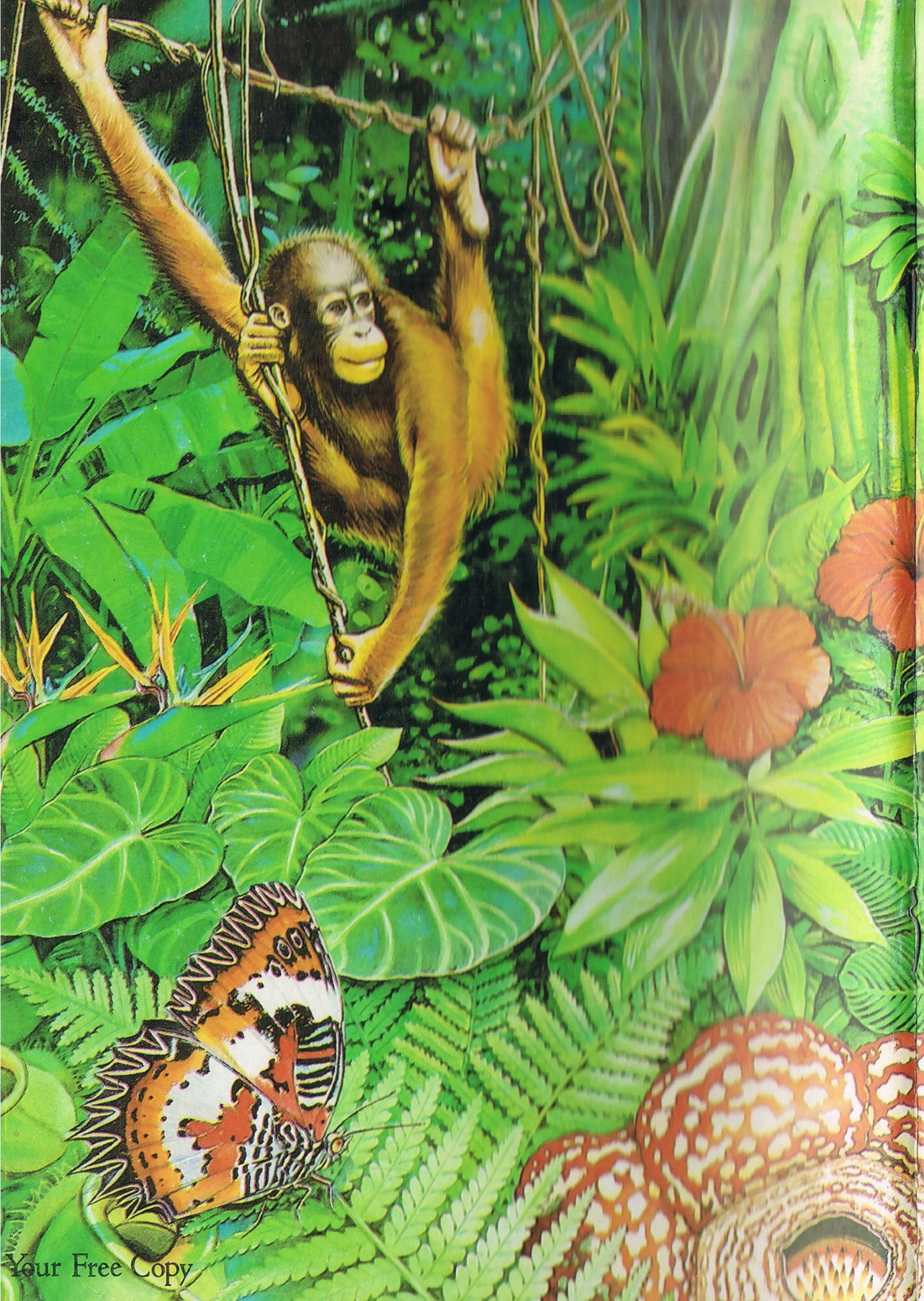

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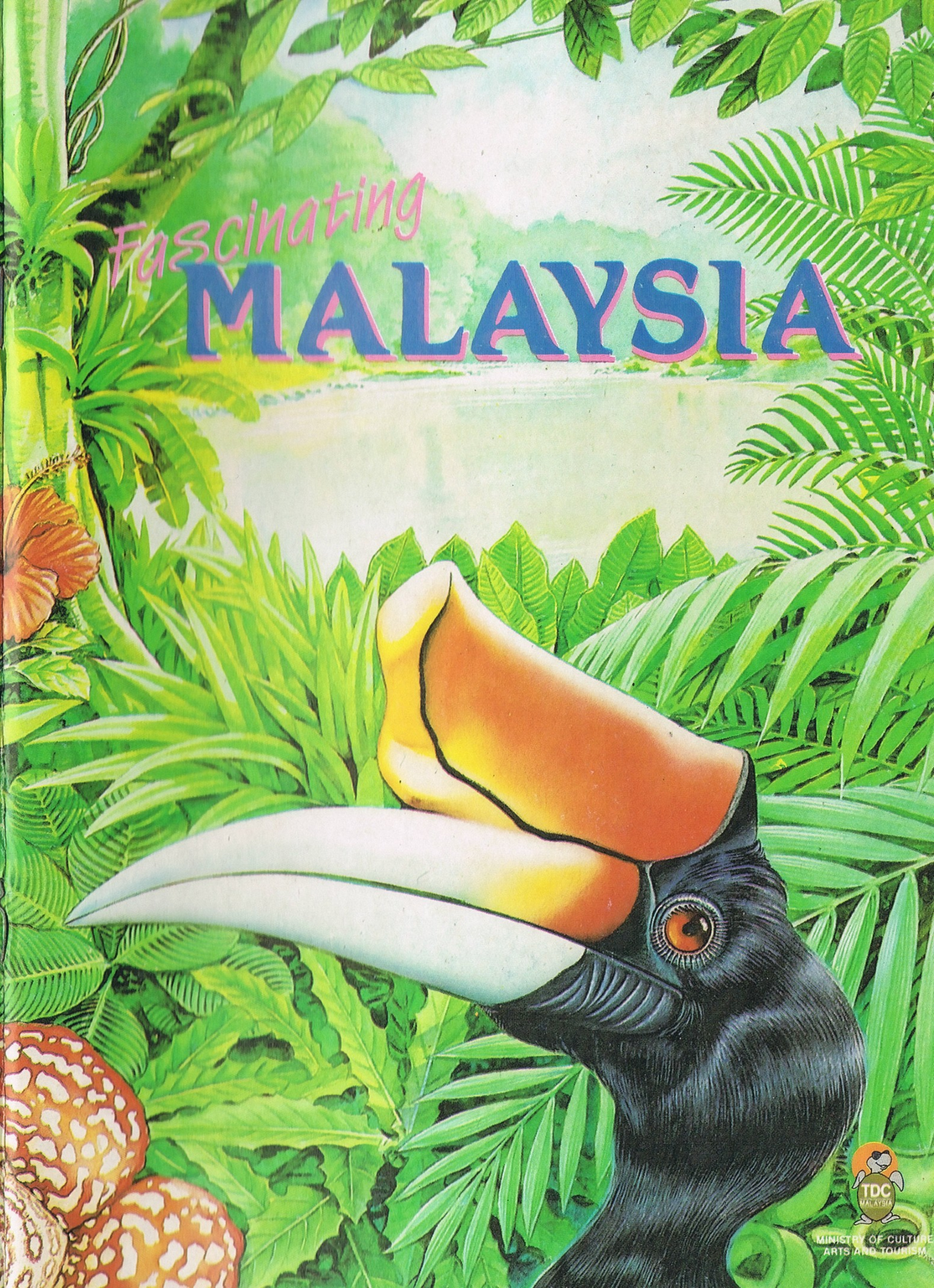
Fascinating MALAYSIA



TDC MALAYSIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE ARTS AND TOURISM

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Welcome To Malaysia

Malaysia is renowned historically as 'The British East Indies' and 'The Fabled Spice Islands of the East'. Situated in the heart of South-East Asia just north of the Equator, it is a country of extraordinary beauty and fascinating wonders. Its natural attractions of lovely sandy beaches, enchanting islands, unspoilt tropical forests, magnificent mountains and rich flora and fauna population are among the best in this part of the world.

The nation is made up of two regions – Peninsular Malaysia (comprising 11 states, namely Perlis, Kedah, Penang, Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Johor) that lies between Thailand in the north and Singapore in the south and the states of Sabah and Sarawak on the northern region of the island of Borneo. Together they cover a total land area of 330,434 sq. km. and are separated by about 550 km of the South China Sea.

Climatically, there are no distinct seasons and temperatures vary very little the year round ranging from 21 to 32 degrees C (70-90 degrees F). Showers are common but they usually clear up as quickly as they come.

Malaysia is a multi-racial country with a population of close to 18 million. The cosmopolitan population is made up mostly of Malays, Chinese, Indians and numerous indigenous people. The ability of Malaysia's multi-racial population to live in peace and perfect harmony

is indeed something to marvel at and Malaysia has been praised by many quarters for her success in social integration.

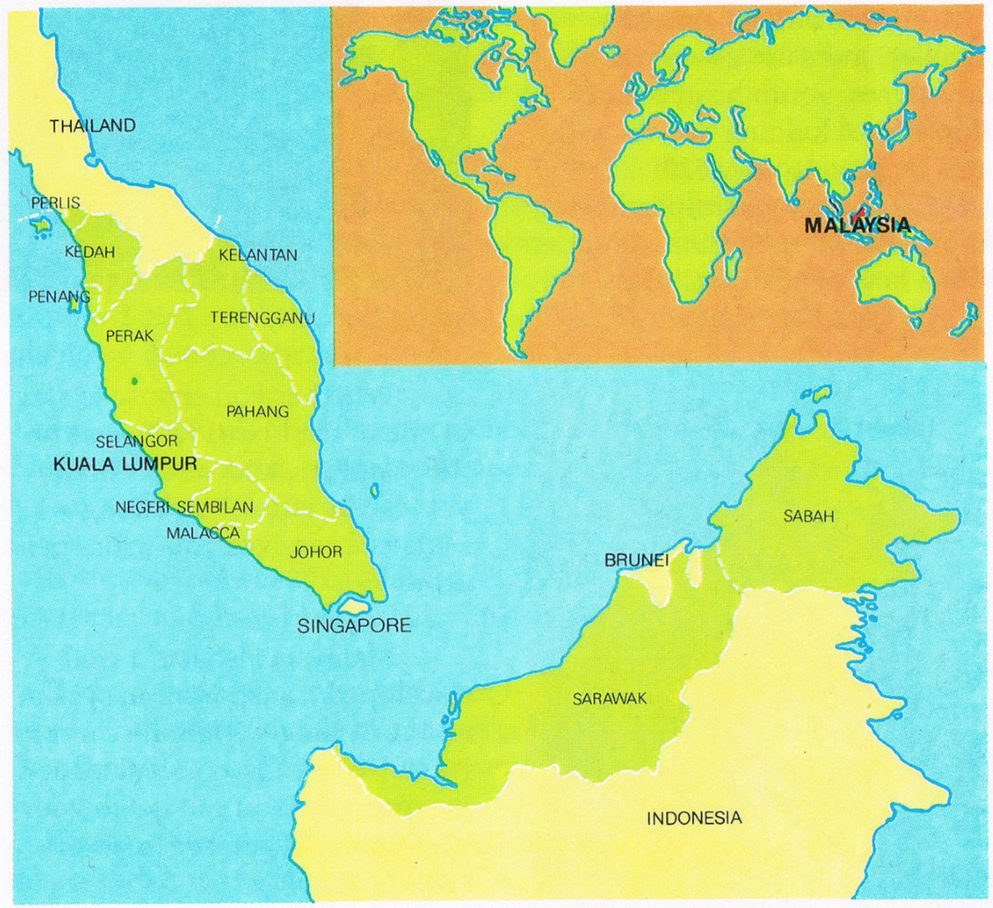
Mutual respect for each other's culture, traditions, religious belief and way of life has not only created a peaceful social environment but has also resulted in political stability and a strong economy for the nation.

Although the various races speak in the national language (Bahasa Malaysia) and their own mother tongue, English is also widely used. Thus, tourists who are conversant in English will find it easy to communicate with Malaysians.

As a visitor to Malaysia, you will have the opportunity to experience and appreciate its rich historic and cultural heritage, boundless culinary delights, shopping splendours and adventurous and fun-filled activities.

And to make your stay here a truly memorable one, warm and friendly Malaysians are always around to assist you.

So, welcome to Malaysia!



Accommodation & Transport

Looking for a place to stay may be a frightening experience in certain countries but certainly not in Malaysia. Here, there is a wide variety of accommodation types to choose from.

Top of the list are the international-class hotels – Hilton, Holiday Inn, Hyatt, Regent, Ming Court, Shangri-La, Pan-Pacific, Equatorial, Ramada, Novotel and many others. Such hotels provide luxurious accommodation with modern amenities and a host of sports and recreational facilities. Most of them have convention facilities ranging from little rooms to enormous banquet halls with a comprehensive range of communication facilities and other conveniences.

For the budget conscious traveller, there are government rest houses, youth hostels and simple local lodging houses with rates ranging from M$20 to M$50. Although simplistic, they do provide air-conditioned rooms with a host of basic facilities.

Whether you choose to stay in one of the luxurious hotels or the simplistic and rustic abode, you can be sure of one thing – Malaysia receives you with open arms.

Malaysia also has a well-developed transportation system and travelling within the country is relatively easy, convenient and inexpensive. You can get to your destination by air, sea, road or rail.

Malaysia Airlines (MAS), the national carrier, operates an extensive network of domestic routes within the country. Flight frequency is sufficient to meet consumer demands and prices are reasonable. Other airlines operating domestic routes include Singapore Airlines, Royal Brunei and Thai International.

For comfortable and economical rail travel, there is Malayan Railways (KTM). The trains are very punctual and the service is excellent. You can either choose the normal train which stops at most stations or the express which only stops at major towns. There are air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned coaches. Sleeping berths are also available on certain coaches.

Buses and taxis offer a convenient and comfortable way to travel and all towns and cities in Malaysia are well served by both. Fares are very reasonable.

For travel between mainland and island destinations, there are boats, ferries and hovercrafts. There are also sea cruises.

If you wish to discover Malaysia by driving, there are rent-a-car services. You have a choice of compact or luxurious models, self-driven or chauffeur-driven. Rates are very competitive.

Finally, there are trishaws – the three-wheeled pedal cycles with carriages either at the side or front. They are very useful when it comes to short-distance travel or sight-seeing.

Food Delights

Malaysia is truly a gourmet's paradise when it comes to food. Comprising 13 states, it is to be expected that each state would have dishes peculiar to it. The many different ethnic groups that make up Malaysia's cosmopolitan population have also contributed gastronomically to yield a seemingly endless range of delicious and appetising cuisine.

TASTY MALAY CUISINES

Malay cuisine are in general spicy and pungent but very tasty. A popular snack is 'satay' – small pieces of meat marinated in various spices, skewered with coconut-leaf ribs and barbecued over a slow charcoal fire. It is served with a spicy peanut gravy and an accompaniment of cucumber and onion slices and 'ketupat' (Boiled rice in woven palm cases). 'Kajang Satay' is well-known throughout Malaysia and is available in the town of Kajang, on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur.

Another popular dish is 'rojak', a salad of flour cake, beansprouts, shredded cucumber and turnip, hard-boiled egg, prawn fritters and squid, topped with a spicy, sweet peanut sauce. Equally sought after is 'laksa', a spicy and sourish dish of rice noodles in shredded fish soup, served with shredded cucumber and pineapple and a spoonful of prawn paste. Penang is especially famous for its 'Penang Laksa'.

Since rice is the staple food of Malaysians, it is to be expected that many appetising dishes would be rice-based. 'Nasi lemak' is often eaten for breakfast. It is rice cooked in coconut milk and served with 'sambal ikan bilis' (anchovies cooked with chilli, onions and prawn paste), sliced hard-boiled egg, peanuts and cucumber slices. For lunch and dinner, plain or specially prepared rice is often eaten with side dishes of delicious chicken curry, 'rendang', and a variety of others.

DELICIOUS CHINESE SPECIALITIES

The variety of Chinese cuisine available in Malaysia is truly amazing. Each dish is specially prepared by expert chefs and guaranteed to excite the taste-buds.

A favourite is 'dim sum', with over 30 different kinds of delicacies to choose from. Dumplings, 'siew mai', 'har kow' and 'yee yuen' are but some of the savoury delights. You should also try Hokkien Prawn Noodles, Wantan Mee, Chicken Pot Rice and Hainanese Chicken Rice.

Chinese side-dishes are so numerous and varied that an attempt to list them is near to impossible. In fact, it would not be wrong to say that the cuisine of almost every province in China is well represented here.

APPETISING INDIAN DISHES

Indian cuisine is also not to be out-done and both North and South Indian specialities are available here. A typical Indian meal usually consists of white rice served in banana leaf, complemented with a variety of delicious meat curries and salads.

One should also try 'Nasi briyani' – rice cooked in ghee with spices and vegetables and served with either beef or chicken. Indian pizza are not only tasty but also inexpensive. 'Murtabak' is a kind of 'pizza' with a special filling of marinated minced meat, eggs and onions. Other types of pizza include 'roti canai', 'chappati' and 'thosai', all of which are served with spicy Indian curry or 'dhall' (a gravy made from lentils).

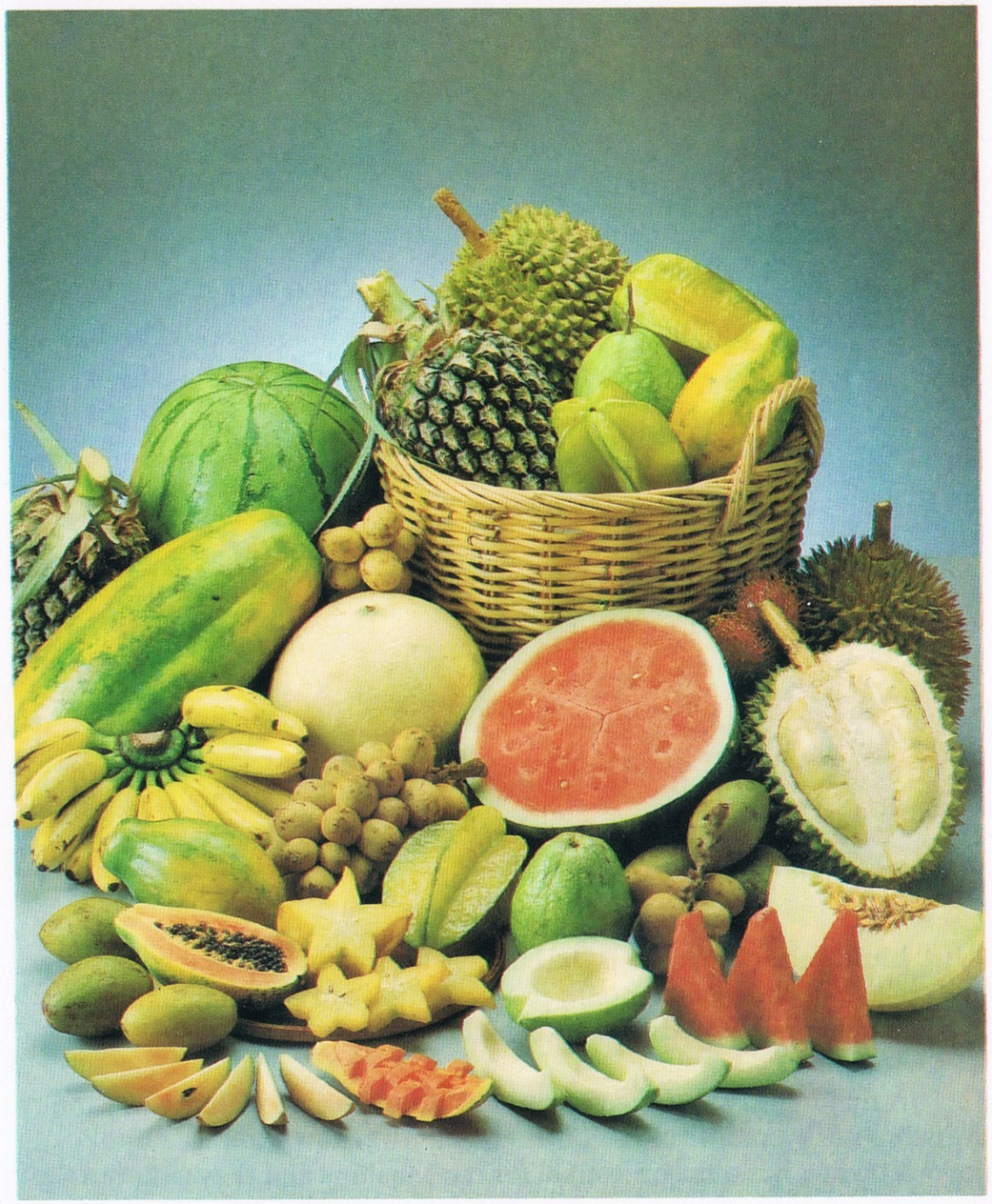
SAVOURY NYONYA DELICACIES

The Straits-born Chinese (also known as the Peranakan or Baba Nyonya) have their own blend of spicy and pungent cuisine prepared with the liberal use of chillies, garlic, onions, pepper and ginger. Nyonya cakes are also appetising items not to be missed.

TROPICAL FRUIT DELIGHTS

For those who like fruits, Malaysia offers a wide variety of tropical delights including durian, rambutan, ciku, mangosteen, guava, watermelon, papaya, mango and banana. Some of them, like the durian, ciku and mangosteens are seasonal while others such as papaya and banana are available all the year round.

Fruit juices are also very popular and among them are pineapple juice, guava juice, starfruit juice and watermelon juice.



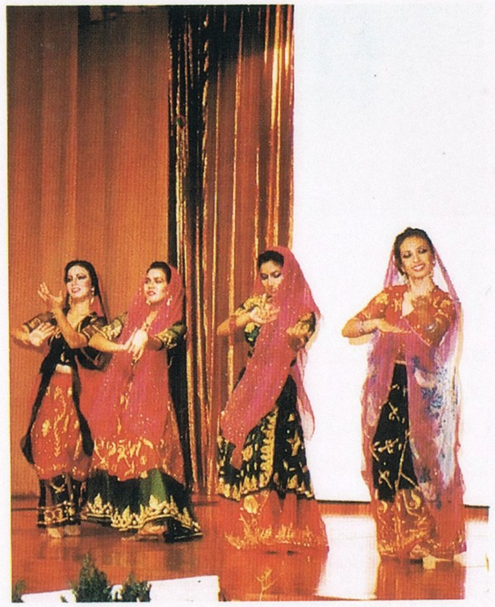
Fascinating Festivals

Multi-racial Malaysia is the country to head for when it comes to festivals. Indeed, never a month passes by without some fascinating festival being celebrated at local or national level.

A major festival of the year is **Hari Raya Puasa**, celebrated by the Muslims after a month of religious fasting from dawn to dusk. The joyous occasion is a major festival for the Muslims and they usher in the

festival with visits to the cemetery followed by thanksgiving prayers at all mosques. Hari Raya Puasa is also the time for family reunions and for asking for forgiveness for all wrong-doings of the past year. There is much merry-making throughout the festival and special dishes are served.

Equally exciting is **Chinese New Year**, a major festival of the Chinese community and celebrated with pomp and splendour for 15 days amidst the firing of fire-crackers, lion dances and much merry-making. Prayers and offering of food, flowers and incense are made



to their gods, both at home and in temples. As in Hari Raya Puasa, 'open-house' is held where relatives and friends call on one another. Children and unmarried 'youngsters' are given 'Ang Pows' (money in small red envelopes) by their elders. A variety of sumptuous food and drinks are served throughout the festival. 'Chap Goh Meh', the fifteenth day, is the last day of the Chinese New Year and is celebrated on a grand scale as befitting the close of a joyous and exciting festival.

Then there is the Hindu festival of **Deepavali** or 'Festival of Lights'. The main feature of the celebration is the decorating of Hindu homes with little oil lamps to signify the victory of light over darkness and of goodness over evil.

Not to be outdone is **Christmas**, celebrated by the Christians in great fashion.

For sheer excitement, there is **Thaipusam** – celebrated by the Hindus in honour of Lord Muruga, a popular deity of the Hindu pantheism. Load your camera or video recorder and capture the beauty and colour of the festival as thousands of devotees pay homage to Lord Muruga. Penitents, in fulfilment of their vows, carry 'kavadis' – wooden ornate frames supported by metal spikes and with silver needles skewered through various parts of their bodies, will no doubt create a lasting impression in your memory. In Kuala Lumpur, the fascinating event can be witnessed at Batu Caves, on the outskirt of the city.

On a quieter note is the **Moon Cake Festival**, characterised by the carrying of colourful and brightly lit lanterns by children of the Chinese community. The event is celebrated to mark the overthrow of the Mongol Overlords in ancient China. 'Moon cakes', a special flour cake with sweet filling, is a delicacy to be savoured during this time.

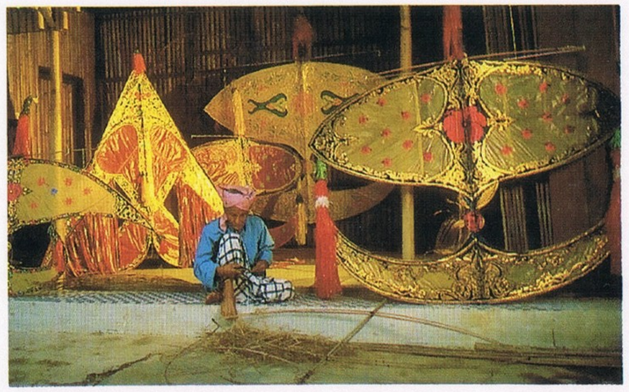
Not to be missed is the **Gawai Dayak**, a festival of utmost importance to the Dayak community of Malaysia. Apart from signifying the end of a successful padi harvesting and the arrival of the new planting season, the festival is also one of religious significance. It is during this time that the spirits of ill omen and evil are appeased to ensure a good harvest in the coming year. Join us in celebrating Gawai Dayak and experience the joy of dancing, singing and the drinking of 'tuak' (rice wine).

Besides the above festivals, there are countless of others, each as spectacular as the other. To list all of them would fill up volumes. So why not take the next flight to Malaysia and discover the beauty and excitement of festivals that only Malaysia can offer.

Cultural Splendour

Malaysia's rich cultural heritage is reflected in its many traditional games and pastimes, costumes, customs and dances.

The flying of colourful giant kites (Wau) is a popular pastime among the people of the East Coast states of Kelantan and Terengganu and is an event not to be missed. Kite flying competitions are often held and they take place amidst cheers and shouts of excitement from enthusiastic spectators.



Another popular pastime giant is the spinning of tops. Shaped like a discus, each top can weigh up to a massive 5 kilograms. The spinning of such tops would therefore require great strength and art. Nevertheless, many visitors have tried and successfully mastered the art of spinning the giant tops.

Then there is the 'Wayang Kulit' or 'Shadow Play'. Held on a raised stage constructed of bamboo poles, the conductor of the play sits behind a large canvas screen and with the light from an electric lamp or oil lamp casts shadows from various buffalo-hide puppets onto the screen and enacts plays based on the great Hindu epics of The Ramayana and The Mahabharata.

A favourite pastime of the Malays is the playing of Sepak Raga, a game played with a rattan ball by a group of people standing in a circle. The main aim of the game is to keep the ball in the air by propelling it with the heads and feet (not the hands) of the players. In competitions, the team that can keep the ball in the air longest is judged the winner. Other pastimes include Silat (the Malay art of self defense), Rebana (a huge drum beaten with wooden sticks) and Congkak (an indoor game played with a wooden trough with two rows of holes).

Although not as evident as the Malays' rich cultural heritage, the Chinese, Indians and other races do have their fair share of exciting pastimes and dances. Chinese operas, lion dances and dragon dances are occasionally held, especially during major and religious festivals. The Indian classical dance of 'bharata natyam' is very popular. It is also not uncommon to see Malaysians exhibiting 'tai chi' in the early hours of the morning, especially in the vicinity of the many lake gardens throughout the country.

Many cultural centres are found in the major towns all over the country. In Kuala Lumpur, exhibitions of traditional games and pastimes are performed at the Malaysia Tourist Information Complex (MATIC), which is also a 'one-stop' information and cultural centre for tourists.

Exquisite Handicrafts

SELANGOR PEWTER

Selangor Pewter is reputed to be the best pewter in the world. Containing 97% Straits refined tin and 3% antimony and copper, the alloy is handcasted and crafted by master-craftsmen employing methods that have been handed down from generation to generation to yield products that are flawless and of exceptional quality. Some of the exotic items available include flower vases, ash-trays, memorial plaques, clocks, beer tankards and goblets, cutlery, figurines, fruit bowls and decorative trays.

KELANTAN SILVERWARE

Kelantan silverware are exquisite items of superb finish and quality, artistically designed and expertly crafted by skilful craftsmen. Items range from the functional to the purely ornamental: fruit bowls, tea-sets, ash-trays, cutlery, brooches, pendants and earrings.

BATIK

Batik is cotton or silk fabric printed with colourful and intricate designs and patterns. The printing of batik is very interesting. First, a metal stamp is dipped into molten wax and then impressed onto a white piece of cloth. The cloth is then dyed with a chosen colour and boiled to remove the wax. The waxed portion of the material remains white. By repeating the process several times, the desired pattern is created. Nowadays, batik is also hand-painted.

SONGKET

Songket, aptly called Malaysia's 'Cloth of Gold', is a brocade of intricate designs and patterns, richly woven with strands of gold and silver threads on a traditional handloom. This exquisite fabric, once exclusive to royalty, is being used today for formal and ceremonial occasions such as weddings and convocations.

POTTERY

Malaysia is also famous for its pottery which comes in a variety of shapes, sizes, colour and texture. Each pottery piece is hand-shaped by the most skilful and creative potter, delicately carved with traditional motifs and painted to produce a fine work of art. Sarawak, Johor and Perak are important producers of pottery in Malaysia.

WOODCARVINGS

Many of the ancient palaces and buildings bear testimony to the artistic craftsmanship of Malaysian woodcarvers. Beams, supports, balustrades, doorways and window shutters all display the beauty and enduring quality of Malaysian woodcarving. Of interest to the tourist are woodcarved items such as mirror-frames, furniture and souvenirs.

BASKETS, MATS AND HATS

The country's rich natural resources – the stem of the climbing rattan, the leaves of the swamp nipah and the pandanus palms and bamboo, are used to produce baskets, mats and hats which are exquisite in form and design. Far from being a simple craft, it requires deft fingerwork and much patience to weave the finely split materials. Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Sarawak are especially famous for their production of such items.

Shoppers' Paradise

When it comes to shopping, Malaysia definitely ranks among the best in this part of the world. Competitive Malaysian Ringgit exchange rates and the availability of a fantastic range of exotic products guarantee endless hours of shopping delights for the shopper.

You have a choice of almost everything, from roadside stalls selling inexpensive souvenirs and handicrafts to modern air-conditioned shopping complexes and exclusive department stores. In addition, there are duty-free shops on the islands of Labuan and Langkawi as well as at the Kuala Lumpur and Penang international airports and city centres. Duty-free items such as cameras, watches, pens, lighters, cosmetics, perfume, cigarettes, liquor and electronic goods are for the taking and are among the cheapest in the world.

For your shopping convenience, items are price-tagged and prominently displayed. If you dislike bargaining over prices then the many department stores and shopping complexes are just right for you. Prices at these outlets are fixed. For cash-free shopping, major credit cards are accepted in many shops.

You should also try the roadside stalls and night markets found in all towns throughout the country. In fact, shopping is rather incomplete if you miss the thrill of visiting such outlets. The variety of goods you can find here is truly amazing. In addition, bargaining is the order of the day here and it can be quite an enthralling experience.

Last but not least, there are always smiling and friendly sales personnel to attend to you as you go about your shopping.

KUALA LUMPUR

Asia's Latest Shoppers' Paradise

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's Federal Capital, is not only the "Garden City of Lights" but also a shopper's paradise. World-class shopping centres are scattered all over the lovely city and offer a whole spectrum of branded goods and designer labels at very competitive prices.

Among the great names in shopping complexes are Sungei Wang Plaza, Bukit Bintang Plaza, KL Plaza, The Weld, City Square, Yow Chuan Plaza, Lot 10 and The Mall. The latter ranks among the largest shopping arcades in Southeast Asia and offers just about everything for everyone.

A favourite shopping centre among both locals and tourists is the Central Market. This used to be a wet-market but has since been transformed into a modern, air-conditioned shopping mall with a wide variety of local crafts and souvenirs for sale. It is also well-known for its food outlets where the best of local cuisine is served.

Across the Central Market is the 'Goldsmiths Row', local jewellery shops where gold, diamonds, jades and other precious stones are offered at the most reasonable of prices.

If you are interested in local handicrafts and souvenir items, you should try the Karyaneka Handicraft Centre on Jalan Raja Chulan, the Infokraf Centre on Jalan Hishamuddin or the various Batik Malaysia Berhad outlets in the city centre. These places offer exquisite silverware, pewters, woodcarvings,

batik or brocade (songket). One should also pay a visit to the Selangor Pewter factory at Setapak where a wide range of pewterwares such as mugs, goblets, cutlery, ash trays and figurines are available.

For a sample of something uniquely Malaysian, one should visit Chinatown in Petaling Street, dubbed 'The Bargain Centre'. This is one of the busiest and most colourful parts of the city. At night, the mid-section of the street is closed to traffic and the entire area is transformed into a bustling, brightly-lit night market.

Then there is Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman. Along both sides of the busy road are rows of shops selling a wide variety of merchandise: clothings, shoes, cosmetics, opticals, sports goods, household items, electrical and electronic products, etc. On Saturdays, a section of the road is closed from 7.00 pm to midnight for the Saturday Night Market. Open-air stalls spring up and people flock here seeking a good bargain in the amazing range of goods available.

P E N A N G

The Best Bet For A Shopping Spree

Penang, the 'Pearl of the Orient', is another great place to shop. The list of products available seems endless: textiles, fashion-wear, electrical and electronic goods, sports items, handicrafts and souvenirs are but some of the delightful merchandise that one can purchase.

As one steps foot on the island, one is greeted by the towering KOMTAR complex, a modern, multi-storey office-cum-shopping complex where one can shop in an air-conditioned atmosphere without realising the passing of time.

Nearby are numerous shops selling a host of goodies. Penang Road, Campbell Street, Chulia Street, Beach Street and Masjid Kapitan Keling Road offer something for everyone. In addition, there are countless street stalls where bargaining is the order of the day.

JOHOR

Shopping Delight Of The South

Johor, the 'Southern Gateway' to Malaysia, is fast becoming a shopper's haven. Its state capital, Johor Bahru, ranks among the best in terms of shopping.

The Holiday Plaza in Johor Bahru is one of the longest shopping arcades in Asia and offers almost everything, from an item as small as a pin to a complete set of furniture and household fittings to set up a home. Within the city centre are other modern shopping complexes: Tun Abdul Razak Complex, Lien Hoe Complex, Kotaraya Plaza and Pelangi Plaza. Bazaars and open-air night markets dot various parts of the city.

For local handicrafts, the Mawar Complex on Jalan Sungai Chat is a 'must visit' destination. Within the complex lie the Handicraft Development Corporation's showroom cum work-place and Karyaneka handicraft centre. Here, one can choose from a comprehensive range of exotic handicrafts. Other handicraft centres include Craftown Handicraft Centre, Sri Ayu Villa and JARO.

Then there is the Aw Pottery, situated on the main highway to Kuala Lumpur. Here, beautiful ceramics are produced. One can opt to watch the master-potters at work or visit the factory's showroom to admire or purchase the exquisite ceramic pieces on display.

KELANTAN

Shopping Haven Of The East Coast

Kelantan is not only famous for its traditional sports and pastimes but also in its production of top quality batik, brocade, silverware, aluminium-ware and bamboo products. These exquisite items are available throughout the state but especially so in Kota Bharu, the state capital, and its surrounding areas.

The Central Market in Kota Bharu offers a host of products including batik, bamboo articles and aluminium wares. For batik, voile, cotton, rayon and silk, one should try the various shops along Jalan Temenggong, Wisma Batik on Jalan Maju and Kampung Penambang where one also gets to observe the craftsmen at work. Those interested in silverware would definitely be delighted with the shops and silvercraft factory on Jalan Sultanah Zainab.

SARAWAK

East Malaysia's Shoppers' Galore

Sarawak, Malaysia's largest state, offers unique and exotic traditional handicrafts like woodcarvings, beadworks, woven fabrics, bamboo and rattan baskets, potteries and jewelleries.

In Kuching, the state capital, modern shopping centres are at Wisma Saberkas, Sarawak Plaza, Wisma Hopoh, Wisma Phoenix and Kuching Plaza. Antique and curio shops can be found along Main Bazaar, Wayang Street and Temple Street. A visit to the Sunday Open Market, situated on Jalan Satok is highly recommended.

Sports And Recreation

Malaysians are enthusiastic sportsmen and sportswomen and many international sports are played and enjoyed. Top of the list is soccer, a very popular sport played at school level right up to international level. If you are an avid soccer fan then you will not be disappointed as soccer matches and competitions are in abundance in Malaysia. The Semi-Pro League and the Malaysia Cup are but two of the more popular ones.

Badminton is another popular sport. International competitions are held from time to time and if you wish to play a game of badminton, there are many badminton courts and halls all over the country.

Also popular are hockey, tennis, squash, rugby, table-tennis, cricket, softball, horse-racing, motor-racing and a host of others.

If you are a golfer then Malaysia is just right for you. The country has a great variety of excellent golf courses. They can be found within bustling cities and towns, off the beaten track, by the sea, up the hills or even on enchanting islands. A golfing holiday in Malaysia will no doubt leave a lasting memory, combining splendid golf courses with the country's many other attractions.

The premier golf club in Malaysia is Kuala Lumpur's Royal Selangor Golf Club. It has the highest number of holes in the country: its

old course (18 holes), its new course (18 holes) and its unique Sulaiman course, which was built in 1965, featuring 9 holes of par-3s.

Another impressive golf club is the Saujana Golf and Country Club. It is the country's most prestigious and expensive golf resort. It has two championship courses crafted by the world-renowned Ronald Fream Design Group.

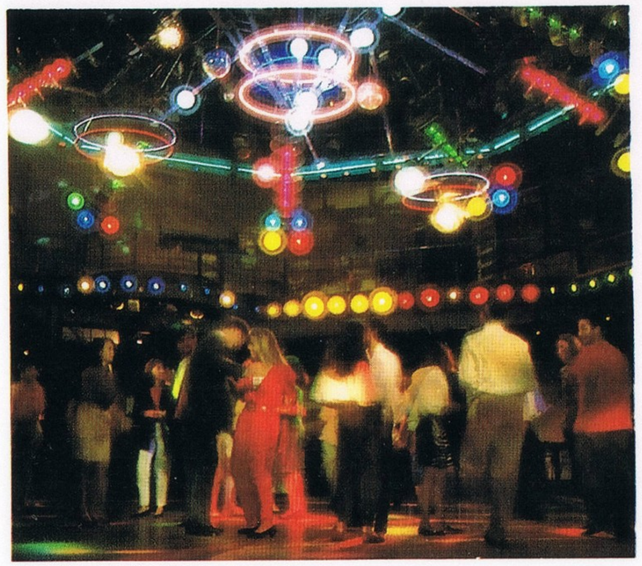
For sheer scenic beauty and unpolluted fresh air, the Ayer Keroh Country Club in Malacca ranks among the best in Malaysia. It is a picturesque 6,534 metre 18-hole, par-72 layout and one of the most challenging in the country.

Up in the hills and perched on a commanding ridge is the Awana Golf and Country Club, located more than 1,000 metres above sea level and on the way to the famed Genting Highlands Resort. Covering an expanse of some 110 acres, the 6,155 metre, par-71 layout is interesting, with 57 bunkers and several ponds and lakes scattered throughout the undulating area.

Then there is the Bukit Jambul Country Club on Penang Island, another masterpiece by world famous designer Robert Irent Jones Jr. The 5,588 metre, par-72 layout has holes on the upper slopes of Bukit Jambul and offers not only interesting and exciting play but also great, scenic views of the Penang Bridge and the island's coastline.

However, that is not all. There are many other golf courses throughout Malaysia, each as challenging and fantastic as the other. In fact, every major town in Malaysia boasts of at least a superb course.

For those who love the sea, Malaysia has an abundance of beautiful, sandy beaches along its long coastline and off-shore islands. You could swim, fish, water-ski and windsurf to your heart's content or snorkel and dive to experience the sheer beauty of the many underwater havens that abound in the country.



For entertainment, there are cinemas, discotheques, karaoke lounges, bars and others.

Spectacular Hill Resorts

A holiday up in the hills is a most rejuvenating experience. The cool, fresh air, the peace and solitude of nature and the vivid hues of multi-coloured blooms offer an ideal refuge from the harsh humidity and humdrum existence of the lowlands. Malaysian hill resorts also offer excellent facilities for jungle walks, exploring nature's mysteries, golf, tennis and for the more adventurous, even mountain climbing.

GENTING HIGHLANDS

Genting Highlands is Malaysia's modern hill resort. Located 1,711 metres above sea-level, it took sheer engineering skill and ingenuity to cut a road through virgin forest and carve a resort in the clouds. Lying just 50 km from Kuala Lumpur, it is easily accessible by road. Transport to the hill is available at the Pudu Raya Bus Terminal in Kuala Lumpur. One can also reach the resort by taking a thrilling cable-car ride and survey the endless expanse of jungle far below.

Accommodation is excellent. The Genting Hotel, Highland Hotel, Pelangi Hotel and the Awana Golf and Country Club provide luxurious rooms and modern amenities amidst the cool and refreshing mountain atmosphere. A host of recreational and amusement facilities await the lucky visitor. Basketball, table-tennis, badminton and squash are available at the indoor stadium. There is a 16-lane bowling alley and a heated swimming pool at the Genting Hotel. Children would undoubtedly be thrilled with the train rides, paddle-boats, ferris wheel, mini-roller coaster and a host of others.

The Awana Golf and Country Club offers a challenging 18-hole, par-71 golf course set in beautiful, rolling scenery. In addition, the Awana horse ranch offers equestrian sports, carnival rides for children and lessons for beginners.

For those who love dancing, Disco 600, a dazzling discotheque with in-house deejays and fantastic lighting system provides superb music for dancing and merry-making to the early hours of the morning. Those who wish to try their luck should pay a visit to the Casino de Genting where Blackjack, Baccarat, Keno, French Bull, Roulette, 'Tai Sai' and slot machines are available.

And to ensure that you do not get hungry, there are many eating outlets. The Theatre-Restaurant has a capacity for 1,200 diners and serves delicious Chinese cuisine amidst lavish entertainment by internationally renowned performers. The Coffee Terrace, Kampong Restaurant, Sails Grill, Genting Bowl Cafeteria, Fortune Corner and Ulu Kali Lounge offer a wide variety of savoury delicacies and refreshment.

Nestled 1,524 metres above sea-level is the lovely hill resort of Cameron Highlands, about four hours' ride by car from Kuala Lumpur. The cool and picturesque surroundings with lush greenery make it a popular destination for those who prefer a tranquil and relaxing holiday.

The hillsides of Cameron Highlands teem with fruit and vegetable farms with fresh vegetables like cabbages, lettuce, tomato, cauliflower and capsicum and fruits such as strawberries, tangerine oranges and grapefruit. Ringlet, Brinchang and Tanah Rata, three small townships in Cameron Highlands, are dotted with markets and shops selling farm-fresh produce.

Tea plantations are spread out on the expansive slopes as far as the eyes can see. Observe the brightly-dressed tea pickers at work in the fields or visit a tea factory to see how the tea leaves are processed. Flower nurseries are also in abundance, with lush profusions of much sought after blooms like roses, chrysanthemums, carnations, dahlias, germaniums, fuchsias and gladioli.

Numerous jungle-paths lead to such well-known peaks: Gunung Brinchang (2032 m), Gunung Beremban (1841 m) and Gunung Jasar (1696 m). For the less energetic, walking along the jungle-paths, especially by the waterfalls at Robinson Falls and Parit Falls, is rewarding enough for brilliantly coloured butterflies will keep you company.

An 18-hole golf course with undulating fairways, a meandering stream and tricky greens offer innumerable challenges to golf enthusiasts.

There are a number of luxurious hotels and resorts in Cameron Highlands. The Strawberry Park is one such resort. Of international class and equipped with a host of F&B outlets and sports and recreational facilities, it undoubtedly possesses the necessary ingredients for a perfect and memorable holiday. Other equally prestigious hotels include the Merlin Inn, Golf Course Inn, Garden Hotel, Ye Olde Smokehouse, Highland Hotel and The Lakehouse.

FRASER'S HILL

Like Rome, Fraser's Hill is built on seven hills. Located 1,524 metres above sea level, it has about it a rather quiet rustic air and much natural charm, be it the lush greenery and colourful blooms or the colonial-type British architecture of the buildings.

Visitors to this lovely hill resort often go on hikes through well-defined jungle paths amidst unusual flora. On reaching the peaks of the surrounding hills, one gets to enjoy the panoramic view of large tracts of the beautiful and picturesque countryside.

For golf enthusiasts, there is a challenging 9-hole golf course, surrounded by virgin, tropical forests right in the town centre. For those who prefer tennis, there are two hard courts at their disposal. A sports complex in the town centre provides a host of facilities – saunas, squash courts, a heated swimming pool, a restaurant, a coffee house and conference facilities.

Swimming in the icy cool waters of the pool below the cascading waters of the Jeriau Waterfall is an exhilarating experience. The fall is easily accessible by car and changing rooms are provided. A hydroponic Rock Melon farm, a mushroom farm and citrus orchards are located nearby.

Fraser's Hill also offers attractions and facilities like a mini-zoo and park, a children's playground, a fish pond, a rose garden, a chrysanthemum garden, horse-riding, camping and excellent accommodation in the form of the Merlin Hotel, Fraser's Pine Resort and Puncak Inn.

MAXWELL HILL (BUKIT LARUT)

Maxwell Hill or Bukit Larut, about 3 km from Taiping in Perak, is Malaysia's oldest and smallest hill resort. It is 1,035 metres above sea level and is blessed with cool temperatures and beautiful, natural surroundings.

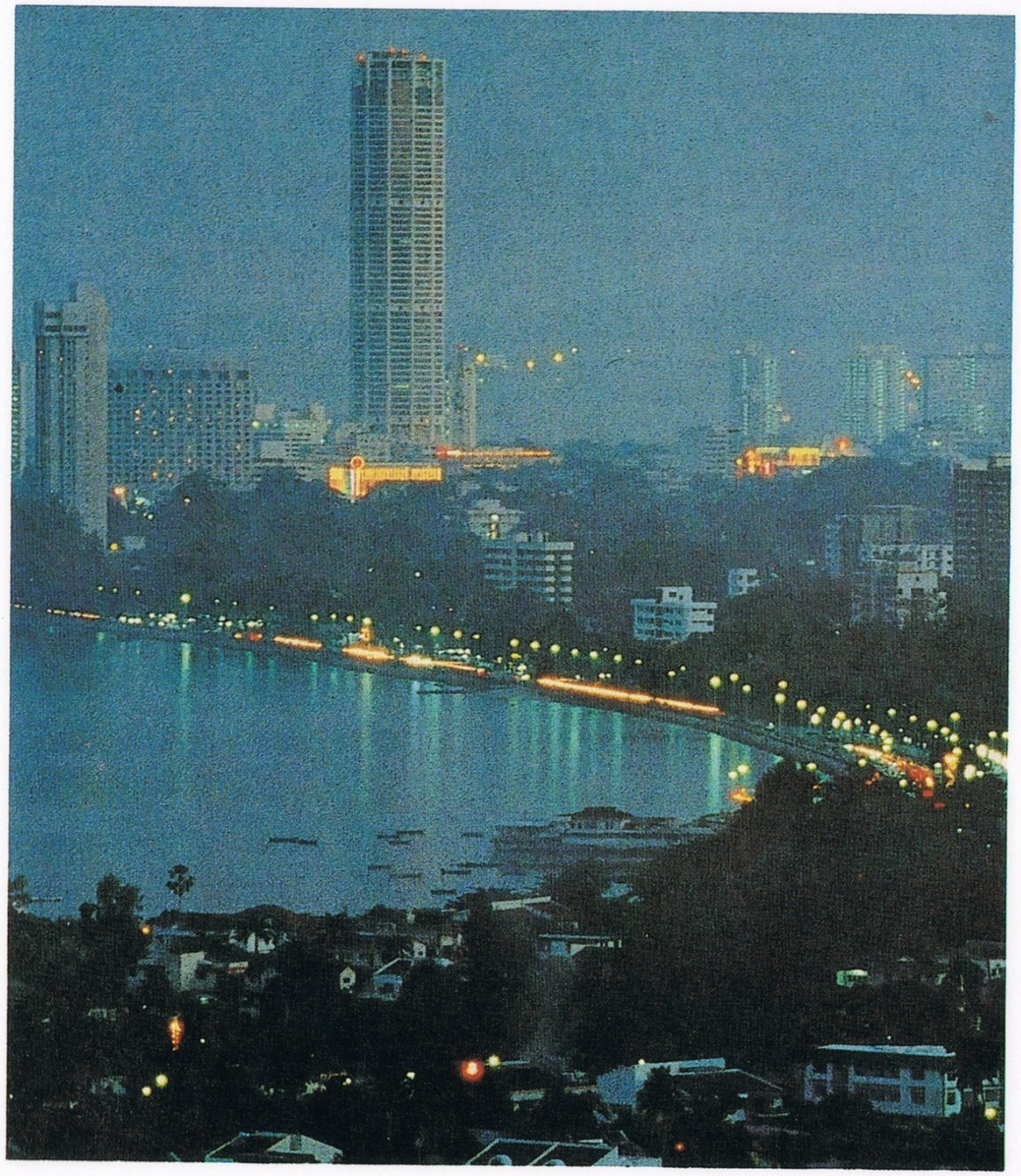
Transport up and down the hill is by Government-administered Land Rovers only and no private vehicles are allowed up the hill as the journey up the narrow and winding road requires great skill on the part of the drivers. A Government rest house and several bungalows provide comfortable accommodation.

Although not as spectacular as the other hill resorts in Malaysia, Maxwell Hill does offer a host of facilities – hiking, leisure strolls, tennis and badminton and a variety of evergreens and colourful flowers such as marigold, petunias and golden sunflowers. In addition, the view from the top of the hill is truly splendid and breathtaking. The Tea Gardens, mid-way up the hill, is a place where one can stop and relax before continuing one's journey to the summit.

PENANG HILL

Penang Hill or Bukit Bendera rises some 830 metres above sea-level in the centre of Penang Island. Temperatures at the peak is pleasantly cool, the average being 18 degrees Celsius. Up here are found numerous private bungalows set amidst an abundance of colourful flowering plants.

A ride up the steep hill on the funicular railway is a unique and thrilling experience in itself. The view from the top is magnificent: Georgetown and the North Straits, the Penang Bridge, the Kek Lok Si temple at Air Itam and miles of golden beaches and the emerald sea. One could also take a leisurely stroll through the colourful Rose Garden filled with beautiful blooms or hike up steep hiking trails.



Enchanting Islands, Beaches & Underwater Havens

"Sun fun" Malaysian style is what our islands and beaches offer you : miles of golden sands fringed by romantic casuarinas and swaying coconut palms, crystal-clear and sparkling waters, beautiful coral reefs and a fascinating spectrum of marine flora and fauna. And to ensure that nothing spoils your holiday mood, comfortable hotel facilities are available wherever you go.

L A N G K A W I

Kedah's Isles Of Legends

Situated off the coast of north-western Peninsular Malaysia is a cluster of 104 enchanting islands known collectively as Langkawi or 'The Isles of Legends'. Once a haven for pirates, it is today the most sought after island escapade in this part of the world. Indeed, its beauty and alluring charm is unparalleled.

The beaches of Langkawi are of fine, golden sand, lapped by sparkling, clear waters. A prolific coral garden abounds in the reefs fringing the islands and together with the diverse marine life-forms render the underwater world in this region a truly spectacular diving paradise.

Langkawi's natural terrain and undisturbed tropical forests offer many opportunities for outdoor activities. Bird-watching, butterfly-hunting and trekking are but some of the things that one could do. It is also possible to go cave-exploring and island-hopping.

Places of interest are often steep in history and legends and include Mahsuri's Tomb, Tasik Dayang Bunting (The Lake of the Pregnant Maiden) and Padang Matsirat (The Field of Burnt Rice).

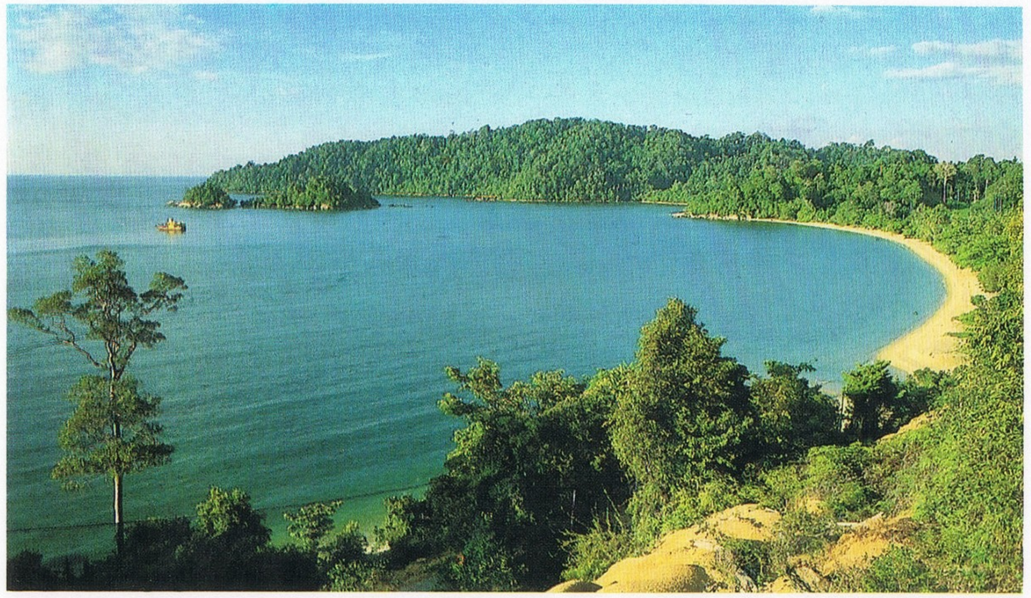
Langkawi is also a duty-free port and there are numerous retail outlets where one can enjoy endless hours of shopping.

Accommodation ranges from luxurious, international-class hotels and resorts to the simplistic A-shaped huts for the budget-conscious. The Sheraton Beach Resort and the Delima Resort are among the latest to be opened here. Both provide top-class rooms, excellent service and a host of sports activities such as swimming, snorkelling, windsurfing, waterskiing, parasailing, yatching, diving, tennis and golf.

P A N G K O R

Perak's Idyllic Isle

Pangkor Island, Malaysia's idyllic western isle, is a beautiful island resort that holds many surprises. Located about 90 km southwest of Ipoh (the capital city of Perak), it is sheltered from the onslaught of monsoons and can be visited at any time of the year. Its natural scenery of lush



green hills and palm-fringed beaches of fine, white sand lapped by warm, blue waters is truly magnificent. The unhurried pace and the tranquil setting offers one a carefree and relaxing holiday.

Of particular beauty are the beaches that abound on the island. Pasir Bogak (Bogak Beach) has been described as the 'biggest swimming pool in the world'. The water off the beach is shallow and crystal-clear and the coral reefs simply spectacular. Another lovely place is Pangkor Laut, Malaysia's very own 'Fantasy Island'. It has three main beaches, namely, Emerald Bay (ideal for swimming), Coral Bay (a haven for skin-diving) and Royal Bay (for sailing and wind-surfing). Accommodation is easily available along these lovely beaches and some of the popular ones are the Pan-Pacific, the Pansea Pangkor Laut and the Sea View Hotel.

Pangkor Island also promises a host of fun-filled activities. Other than aqua-sports like sailing, windsurfing, fishing, waterskiing, snorkelling and diving, there are golf, tennis, cycling and sea cruises. One could also visit various places of interest like the Dutch Fort at Teluk Gedung, the Sri Pathirakaliaman Temple at Sungai Pinang Kecil or the Foo Lin Kong Temple at Sungai Pinang Besar. The latter is a Chinese Temple dedicated to one of the Eight Immortals of the Chinese legends. Within the temple grounds are a beautiful mini-garden and a miniature of the Great Wall of China.

It would also be in Pangkor that sea-food is at its best. The many restaurants and beach stalls offer delicious cuisines of lobsters, prawns, crabs, squids and a wide variety of fish cooked in whatever way you wish.

PENANG ISLAND

The Pearl Of The Orient

Penang Island, known internationally as 'The Pearl of the Orient', needs no introduction. From its establishment as the first British trading outpost in the Far East in 1786, it is today a bustling metropolitan city with a unique blend of East and West.

Here can be found many scenic delights and architectural splendours. Mosques, temples and churches are scattered all over the lovely tropical paradise. Fort Cornwallis, the historic site where Captain Francis Light first landed on the island in 1786, is a popular destination among tourists. Several recreational parks and gardens bear testimony to the richness of Penang's flora and fauna.

Penang offers a wide range of accommodation to cater to the individual preferences of every visitor, from beach resorts of international standard fronting the beaches of Batu Feringghi, Tanjung Bungah and Teluk Bahang, to the moderately priced hotels which are conveniently located in the city. Most of the hotels have centralised air-conditioning, well-equipped convention and conference facilities as well as coffee-houses, restaurants, cocktail lounges, discotheques and health centres with sauna and massage.

Penang is also a shopper's paradise. The list of items available seems endless and the price is among the cheapest in this part of the world. And when it comes to food, Penang is second to none. Its many restaurants and street stalls offer a wide variety of both local and foreign delicacies. Asam laksa, rojak, satay, murtabak, rendang, chicken chop, sea food, ... the list goes on without end.

Penang is fast becoming a centre for sporting events. Many international events such as the MAS/Penang International Marathon, the Penang International Boat Festival, the Penang Bridge Run and the Penang Power Boat Race are held here annually. Golfing is also a delight since the opening of the Bukit Jambul Country Club.

PULAU BESAR

Malacca's Isle Of Fun

Situated 14 miles off Malacca's coast, Pulau Besar offers 167 hectares of lush tropical greenery and raw, unspoilt beauty. Once an insignificant island, it has now become an exotic getaway island resort that promises the visitor a host of fun under the sun.

The lovely island can be reached from Malacca Town on the mainland via a fully air-conditioned, 131-seater catamaran service. The splendid journey takes only 25 minutes and a return trip costs only M$15.00.

The Tapa-Nyai Resort, developed by The State Economic Development Corporation of Malacca, is the newest island destination in Malaysia. Ideally located on the leeward side of Pulau Besar, it is a 'must visit' island resort. Covering 9.31 hectares, it offers a combination of village or 'kampung' ambience comprising 141 rooms of international-class hotel rooms and chalets with modern amenities and facilities. There are top-class restaurants, bars, discotheque, karaoke lounge and also banquet and conference facilities. The Resort also provides a host of fun-filled activities from aqua-sports to nature treks and cultural activities. Other facilities include tennis courts, gymnasium, children's playground, health centre and shops.

PORT DICKSON

Negeri Sembilan's Premier Beach

Situated about 32 km west of Seremban (Negeri Sembilan's state capital), Port Dickson is one of the best known sea-side resorts and favourite playground for Malaysians during weekends and holidays. This scenic beach resort boasts of superb beaches and crystal-clear waters as well as a variety of hotels and holiday bungalows nestled under tall casuarinas and banyan trees. Most of these hotels are well equipped with sports facilities such as sailing, catamarans, windsurfing, water-skiing, scuba-diving and fishing.

PANTAI CINTA BERAHI

Kelantan's Beach Of Passionate Love

About 10 km from Kota Bharu (Kelantan's state capital) is the much talked-about Pantai Cinta Berahi or 'Beach of Passionate Love'. This beautiful and scenic beach has fine, white sand, fringed by coconut palms and casuarinas. Several comfortable hotels and motels with a host of water sports facilities are available here. A fine example is the Perdana Resort with its distinct Malay architectured chalets clustering around a man-made lake.

There are other lovely beaches along the Kelantan coastline. The more popular ones include Pantai Dasar Sabak, Pantai Irama (Beach of Melody) and Pantai Dalam Rhu (Beach of Whispering Breeze).

RANTAU ABANG BEACH

Terengganu's Turtle Beach

Terengganu's long coastline has many golden beaches of which the most spectacular is the Rantau Abang Beach. It is to this magnificent beach that the giant leatherback turtles toil ashore to lay their eggs between the months of May to September each year.

To enable visitors to witness this rare natural phenomenon, accommodation and other facilities are available along the beach. The Tanjong Jara Beach Hotel is the foremost among the beach hotels. Specially architectured and landscaped, it has won the prestigious Aga Khan award for outstanding architecture. Recreational activities include aqua-sports and an exciting river safari up the Dungun River.

While here, one should also visit the alluring islands of Perhentian, Redang, Kapas and Tenggol off the Terengganu coast. The seas around these islands abound with a fascinating variety of coral and marine life and the crystal-clear waters is excellent for underwater exploration and photography.

TIOMAN ISLAND

Pahang's Island of Paradise

Tioman Island is the largest of a group of 64 volcanic islands. Blessed with sparkling blue waters, beaches of fine sand and prolific coral gardens, it is indeed the perfect island getaway. In fact, the sheer beauty of the island has won it the nomination as one of the ten most beautiful islands in the world.

The Tioman Island Resort on the island is just the right place to check in for a rewarding holiday. With 220 luxurious rooms, conference facilities and a host of fun-filled activities that include trekking, swimming, archery, windsurfing, sailing, canoeing, snorkelling, diving and glass-bottom boat tours, nothing else needs to be said about the resort.

Pahang also has several wonderful beaches. Teluk Chempedak is just five kilometres from Kuantan, the state capital, and is the site of two world class hotels – the Hyatt Kuantan and the Merlin Inn Resort. Here, one can enjoy the wide variety of aqua-sports or shop for woodcarvings, shellcrafts, batik and exquisite gold and silver brocade. Another well-known beach is Cherating, a name synonymous with Club Mediterranee for it is here that the world famous club is located. Nearby is Chendor Beach, a popular nesting ground for the giant leatherback turtles.

DESARU

Johore's Prized Beach Resort

Located on the east coast of Johore, Desaru is truly a beach resort of excellence. It offers more than 20 km of unspoilt, sandy beaches against a backdrop of lush tropical forests. At present, two luxurious hotels, namely the Desaru Golf Hotel and the Desaru View Hotel provide luxurious accommodation and a host of modern facilities and sports activities for the visitor. Swimming, windsurfing, canoeing, fishing, tennis and golf are but some of the things that can be enjoyed here.

TANJUNG ARU

Sabah's Romantic Beach Resort

Situated about 6 km from Kota Kinabalu (Sabah's state capital) is the Tanjung Aru Beach, a long stretch of lovely, sandy beach lined with romantic palm and casuarina trees and caressed by gentle waves. There is so much to see and do because here you will find the international class Tanjung Aru Beach Resort, the Kinabalu Yacht Club, the Kinabalu Golf Club and Prince Philip Park.

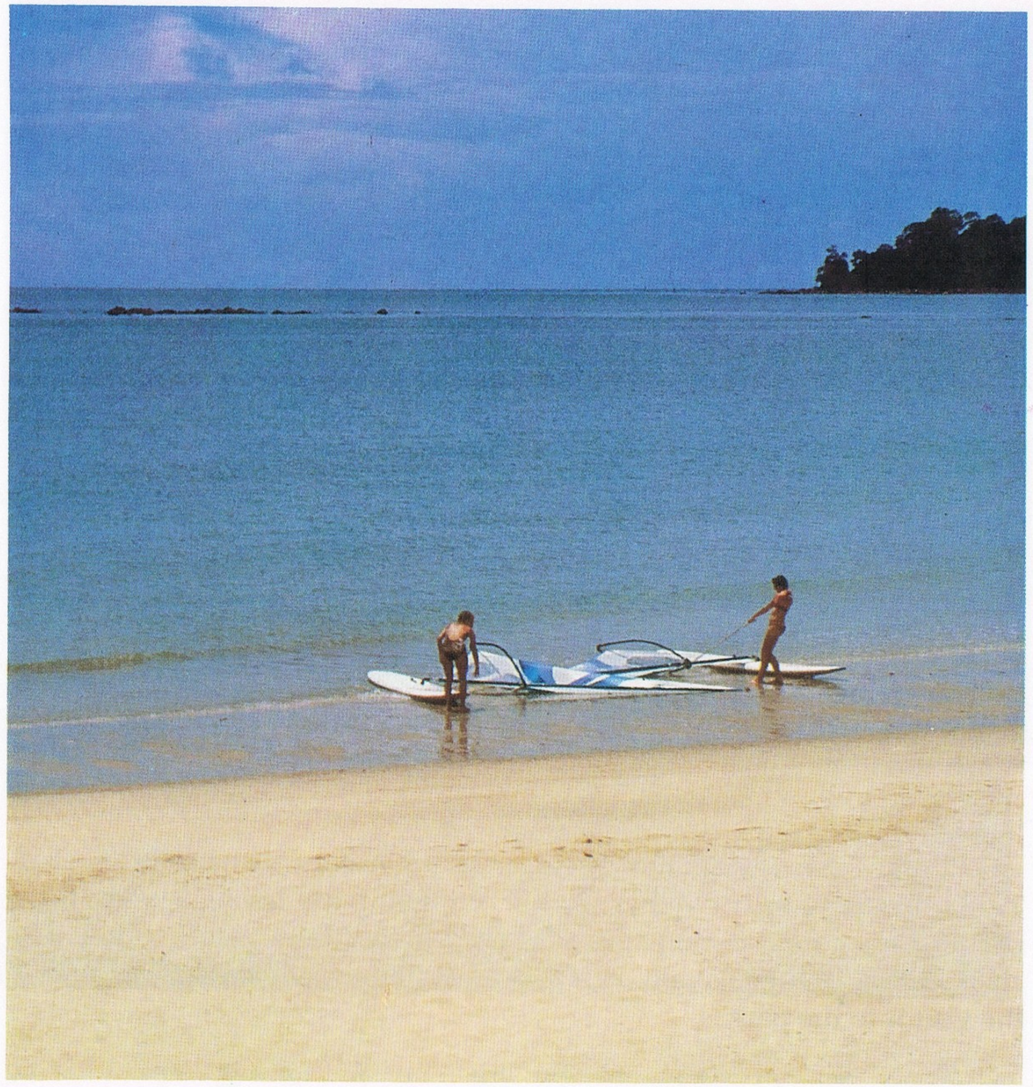
From Tanjung Aru, one can hop aboard a speedboat and get to the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park. Comprising five lovely islands, the park is a must for those who love the sea. White sandy beaches, crystal-clear waters, beautiful coral reefs and an abundance of marine life greet the visitor to the park.

For an experience of a lifetime, the Turtle Islands should be visited. Here is where the Green and Hawksbill turtles toil ashore to lay their eggs. The peak season is between July and September.

Avid divers should head for Sipadan island, the only oceanic island in Malaysia and reputed to be one of the best in South-East Asia. Sipadan boasts of unparalleled undersea scenery, spectacular reefs, caverns, cliffs and overhangs and a wide variety of flora and fauna.

DAMAI BEACH

Sarawak's Charming Beach



Damai Beach is about 20 km from Kuching (Sarawak's state capital). It is endowed with golden sands, gently swaying coconut trees and sparkling blue waters. In the background lie vast tracts of verdant tropical jungles and the legendary Mount Santubong. The Holiday Inn Damai Beach Resort provides luxurious accommodation in the form of modern chalets and a host of recreational activities such as canoeing, snorkelling, windsurfing, waterskiing and boating. Also available are F&B outlets, a business centre and two convention and meeting rooms with a capacity of 240 persons.

A World Of Adventures

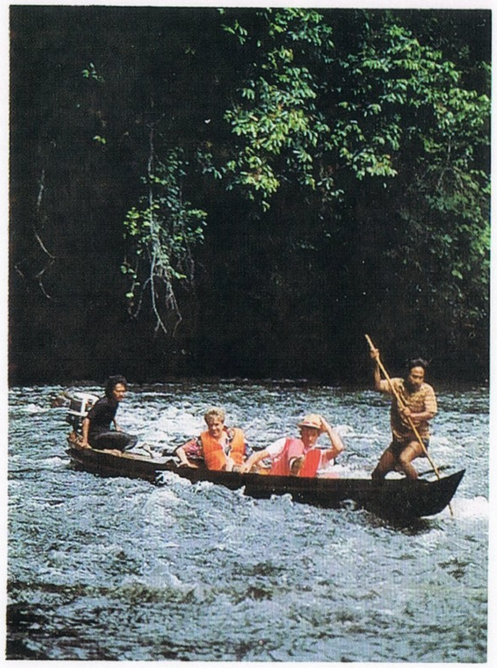
Malaysia's National Parks are among the best in this part of the world. Covering large areas of virgin, tropical forests with spectacular mountains and magnificent rivers, they provide the necessary ingredients to an exciting and adventurous holiday. Rafting through swirling rapids, climbing a challenging mountain, exploring wonderful caves, stalking big game with a camera, bird-watching and trekking through mother nature's legacy are but some of the exciting activities that one could do.

ADVENTURES IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

TAMAN NEGARA, PAHANG

Taman Negara or National Park is the foremost of the national parks in Malaysia. It covers 4,343 sq. km. of heavily forested area straddling a range of mountains in the heart of Peninsular Malaysia. Although it encompasses certain regions of the States of Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu, the region that is accessible to visitors is that contained in the State of Pahang.

On the southern edge of the park is Kuala Tahan, the site of the park's headquarters. Kuala Tahan is linked to the outside world only by river. A visitor intending to visit the park will have to journey by road or rail to Kuala Tembeling. There, by pre-arrangements, a park-boat will transport him to his lodging in Kuala Tahan.



At Kuala Tahan, many adventures await him. First, there are the salt licks where animals such as deer, civet cats, elephants and occasionally tigers and

'seladang' (a type of wild buffalo) can be seen. A short walking distance from the Park Headquarters are two salt licks, Jenut Tahan and Jenut Tabing. Further away, but still within a day's walk or a boat ride, are Jenut Belau and Jenut Kumbang. Observation huts have been built at all these licks so that visitors may watch the animals without disturbing them.

Anglers would be especially delighted with what Taman Negara has to offer. There are more than 200 species of fish here. Most of them belong to the carp family. The Kelesa (Sclerophages formosus) is a good sport. When hooked, it will leap out of the water and race away at great speed. Other game fish include the Toman (Ophiocephalus striatus) and the Sebarau (Hampala macrolepidota). Avid anglers should make it a point to camp in the upper reaches of Sungai Kenyam and Sungai Sepia. It would be one camping trip where he will remember for a long, long time. Apart from these, there are also fishing lodges at Lata Berkoh and Kuala Perkai.

Taman Negara is also home to a great variety of birds. The best bases for bird- watching are Kuala Kenyam, Kuala Trengganu and Kuala Tahan. For the ardent photographer, the park offers a wide range of subjects: beautiful scenery, wild orchids, brilliantly- coloured butterflies and a host of others. One could also opt to go trekking along the numerous jungle trails or cave-exploring for there are many limestone hills and outcrops in the vicinity of the park.

For the mountaineering enthusiast, a climb up Gunung Tahan (2,190 metres above sea-level) is a real challenge. The first obstacle is the harsh journey on foot from Kuala Tahan to Kuala Teku at the base of the mountain. It involves trekking through dense jungle, climbing small hills and the crossing of several rivers and streams. This part of the journey usually takes about two and a half days.

From Kuala Teku to the summit, the journey must be done in two stages due to the scarcity of water. It takes at least 3 days to climb from the foot of the mountain to the summit and back. Thus the whole expedition may take about 8 to 9 days. If you are interested to attempt a climb, make sure to get an experienced guide. For further details, please contact Wildlife & National Park Department, 10th km Jalan Cheras, 56100 Kuala Lumpur (Tel: 03-9052872 / 5 / 6).

KINABALU NATIONAL PARK, SABAH

Another impressive national park is the Kinabalu Park in Sabah. Here lies Mount Kinabalu (4101 metres), one of the highest mountains in South-East Asia. Dominating the Sabah skyline from every angle, the mountain, together with its surrounding area make up the Kinabalu Park, a reserve covering an area of 754 sq. km. and home to an incredibly diverse range of flora and fauna, including the Rafflesia (the largest flower in the world) and more than a thousand species of exotic orchids.

The main attraction here is the conquest of Mount Kinabalu. The climb to the summit is a two-day affair. Climbers usually start early in the mountain as the cabin at Panan Laban (3350 metres above sea-level) needs to be reached before nightfall. Early the next morning, it is time to start again. After a two-hour climb, the climber reaches the shelter at Sayat-Sayat. Another hour of climbing and the summit, Low's Peak, is reached. Although the view from the summit is breathtaking and many climbers would like to linger much longer, it is important that the descent be commenced before noon if the power station is to be reached before dark.

The less adventurous visitor can explore sections of the Park using graded trails near the Park Headquarters. Kinabalu Park is a haven for doing nature study. It is home to a variety of plants, animals and birds such as the Mountain Blackeye, Warbler Blackbird and the Argus Pheasant.

Another attraction of the park is the Poring Hot Spring, situated about 43 km from the Park Headquarters. Here are found open-air sulfur baths amidst a beautiful landscaped garden.

NIAH NATIONAL PARK, SARAWAK

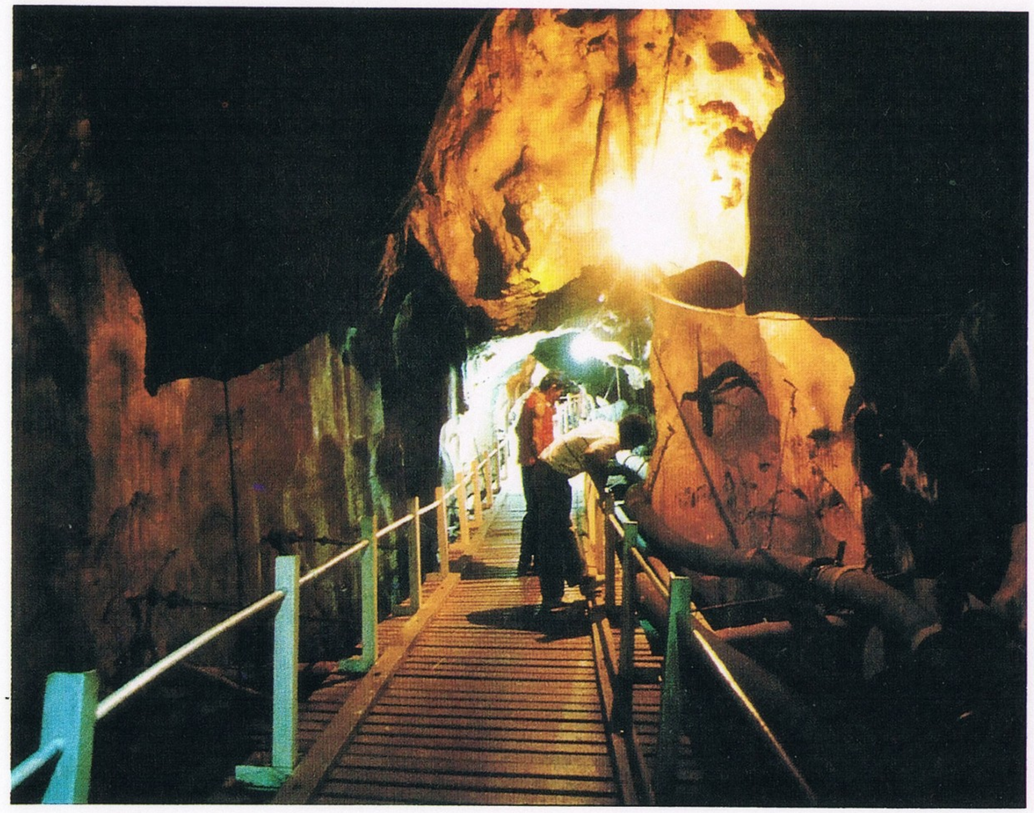
The Niah National Park in Sarawak is made up of 3,102 hectares of forest and limestone and can be reached through a succession of flight, road journey and boat ride. The major attraction here is the Niah Caves. The Great Cave alone covers an area of 11 hectares. And from cave floor to roof, the height may exceed 100 metres. The caves have a rich history too. Evidence exists of Homo Sapiens who lived in the caves about 40,000 years ago. Artifacts such as stone, bone and iron tools were discovered at the site. The caves are also home to thousands of bats and swiftlets and the limestone flora is of special botanic interest as it includes many endemic plants.

GUNUNG MULU NATIONAL PARK, SARAWAK

Another national park in Sarawak is the Gunung Mulu National Park, covering an area of about 543 sq. km. of primary alluvial, peat swamp mixed with dipterocarp, limestone and montane forests. It has the most extensive and spectacular cave system in the world with picturesque limestone pinnacles and underground river passages. The cave dwellers are as fascinating as the cave itself, comprising 12 species of bats, 3 species of swiftlets and a variety of centipedes, earwigs, spiders and giant crickets. Elsewhere, fungi, mosses, ferns, flowering plants, orchids, pitcher plants, mammals, birds, frogs, fish, butterflies, ants and many others abound. With such a variety of flora and fauna, nature study is at its best here.

The main attraction of the park is undoubtedly the caves themselves. However, for the present time, visitors will only be permitted to explore Deer Cave, Wind Cave and Clear Water Cave. Many of the other caves are either too inaccessible at present, dangerous or contain delicate features that can easily be damaged.

There are also numerous jungle trails linking various areas within the park. The trails can be as short as 3.5 km or as long as 21 km. Those interested in mountain climbing can try Gunung Mulu (2376 metres) or Gunung Api (1750 metres).



Whitewater Rafting

Whitewater rafting is the latest thrill that Malaysia offers to adventure seekers. This is particularly so in the state of Sabah where the sport of rafting down rivers with foaming, turbulent rapids is much sought after by both locals and visitors. Sabah's wide variety of fast flowing rivers, coupled with her scenic splendours and pristine jungles guarantee hours of adrenalin-pumping rollercoaster riders. The Padas River and the Kiulu River are two of the challenging rivers where waves of over 10 feet are common. For enquiries / reservations, please contact:

API Tours (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd.
Ground Floor, Lot G 31 / 32, Wisma Sabah,
88000 Jalan Tun Razak, P. O. Box 12853,
88831 Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.
Tel: 088-221233 Fax: 088-221230
Telex: APITOU MA 81322

River Safaris & Cruises

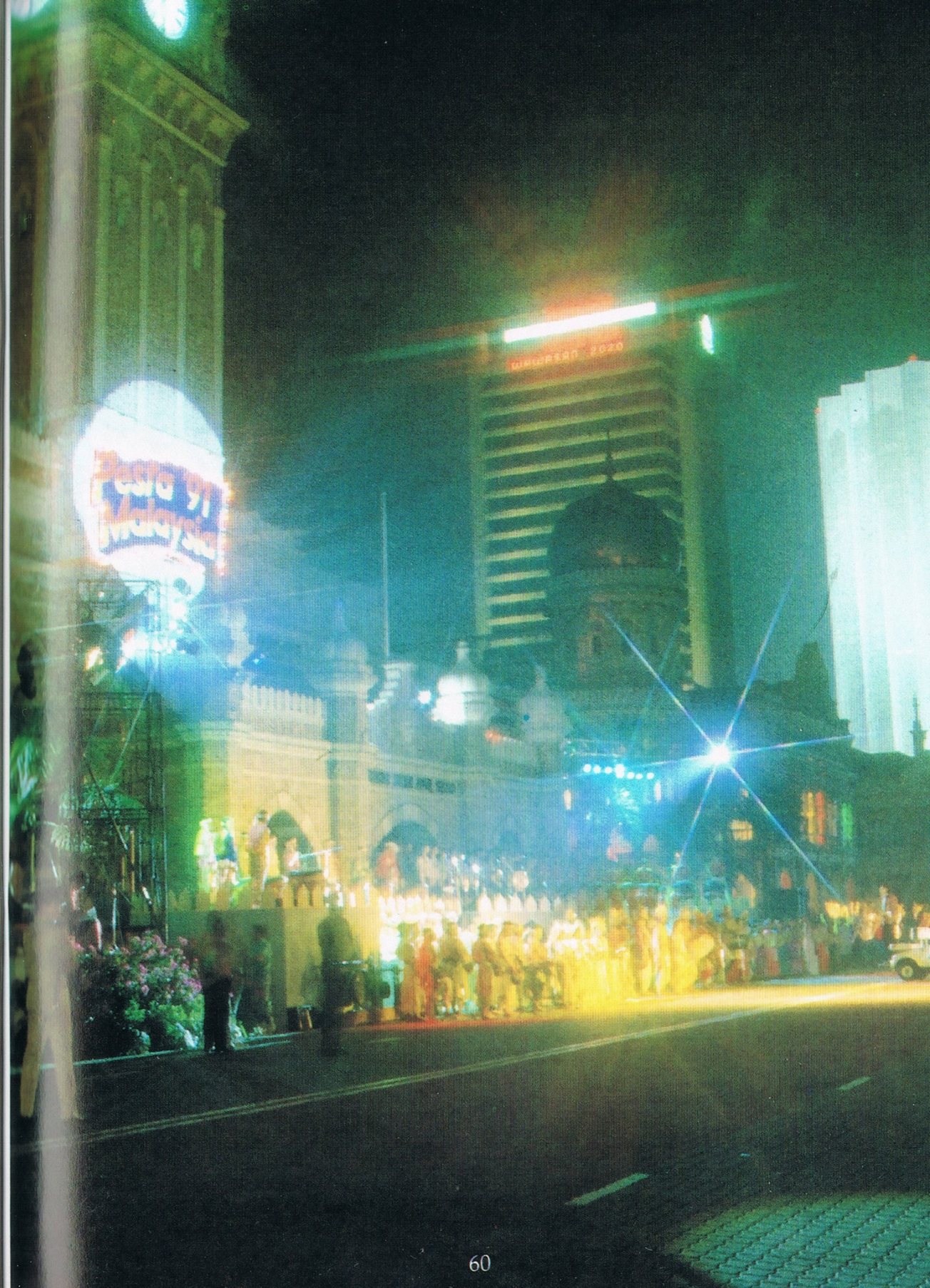
River safaris and cruises are becoming increasingly popular among tourists to Malaysia. Well organised and with expert guides, they provide an interesting and exciting way to explore the country's interior. River safaris and cruises are available in Malacca, Kuala Berang in Terengganu and Taman Negara and Lake Chini in Pahang.

Fishing

Inland fishing is a glorious and rewarding activity that should not be missed while visiting Malaysia. Many of the best fishing spots are found deep in the jungles, in ponds and lakes nestled high up in the hills and off the beaten track. In addition, the wide variety of fish that can be found makes it hard for the avid angler to avoid a fishing trip or two. Excellent areas are Temenggor Lake, Cenderoh Lake and Bukit Merah Lake in Perak, Kenyir Lake in Terengganu, Lake Cini in Pahang and the many rivers and streams found in the national parks of Malaysia.

Deep-sea fishing is another adventurous activity to engage in. Tunas, groupers, snappers, barracudas, sharks and even the blue marlin are some of the games that one could go for. Deep-sea fishing trips are available at most coastal towns and villages and also on popular island resorts like Langkawi, Pangkor, Perhentian, Tioman and Sipadan.

Squid fishing is available in the East Coast states of Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang. By pre-arrangement, fishermen will take you out to sea at night where the squids are attracted by the light from a gas lamp and then fished out. The best months for squid fishing are June and July.



Fascinating Events 1992

Date	Event	Location
	January	
31st Dec – 1st Jan.	Launch of Visit Asean Year 1992	Kuala Lumpur
1st – 5th Jan.	2nd ASEAN Dance Festival.	Kuala Lumpur
Jan. – Mac.	Exhibition on Borneo Heritage (Sabah & Sarawak)	Muzium Negara, Kuala Lumpur
2nd – 4th Jan.	Cultural Show and Bird Competition.	Sg. Batu Pahat, Perlis
	February	
4th – 11th Feb.	Kuantan Challenge II International Boardsailing Regatta.	Balok Beach, Kuantan, Pahang.
	March	
1st – 7th Mac.	Langkawi Festival.	Langkawi, Kedah.
	April	
15th – 24th April	Malacca towards 600th Anniversary Celebration.	Malacca
	May	
15th – 31st May	Sabah Fest and Kaamatan Festival	Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
20th – 24th May	Malaysia International Kite Festival	Tumpat, Kelantan
23rd – 30th May	Malacca Tourism Week.	Malacca
28th – 29th May	Penang International Dragon Boat Race	Penang
30th May – 3rd June	Gawai Festival.	Kuching, Sarawak.
	June	
6th – 7th June	Fraser's Hill International Bird Races.	Fraser Hill, Pahang
6th June	Birthday of HM The Yang DiPertuan Agong.	Kuala Lumpur
21st – 28th June	Flora Festival	Kuala Lumpur
28th June	Floral Parade	Kuala Lumpur

Date	Event	Location
	July	
16th – 20th July	Kelantan International Drum Festival.	Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
July – Sept.	Exhibition On Traditional Musical Instruments of Malaysia	Malaysia Tourist Information Complex (MATIC) K.L.
	August	
2nd – 15th Aug.	2nd World Youth Music Camp.	P.W.T.C., K.L.
14th – 21st Aug.	Terengganu Beach Festival.	Kuala Terengganu
10th – 31st Aug.	Lumut Festival	Lumut, Perak
14th – 31st Aug.	Port Dickson Festival	Port Dickson, N. Sembilan
22nd – 23rd Aug.	F.I.M. World Superbike Championship (International)	Shah Alam, Selangor
27th – 2nd Sept.	National Day.	Kuala Lumpur
	September	
5th – 6th Sept.	MAS Mount Kinabalu International Climbathon.	Kinabalu Park, Kundasang, Sabah
12th – 26th Sept.	Malaysia Fest 1992.	Kuala Lumpur
Sept. – Oct.	Tioman International Regatta.	Tioman Island
	October	
3rd – 10th Oct.	Cameron Highlands Flower Fest	Cameron Highlands
4th October	Malaysia Airlines International Marathon	Penang
15th – 31st Oct.	Mulu Expedition.	Taman Negara Mulu
17th – 18th Oct.	The Selangor International Bird Race.	Kuala Selangor
	November	
1st – 7th Nov.	Kuda Kepang Carnival.	Johor Bahru
Nov.	World Formula I International Power Boat Grand Prix	Penang
1st – 10th Nov.	Asean Crafts Expo	(MATIC) K.L.
1st Nov. – 31st Dec.	Penang Festival	Penang

Useful Information For Visitors

GETTING TO MALAYSIA:

Getting to Malaysia is very easy with more than 20 airlines serving the country from all over the world. Gateway cities are Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Kuantan, Kota Kinabalu and Kuching if you come by air. By sea you will arrive at Penang, Port Kelang, Kuantan, Kuching or Kota Kinabalu. A road network from Singapore to Thailand allows you to drive from either of these points into Malaysia.

ENTRY FORMALITIES:

Health Requirements.
No cholera or smallpox vaccination is required for visitors to Malaysia. However, vaccination is required for arrivals from infected zones except for children under one.

Disembarkation Card.
Every visitor to Malaysia is required to fill in a disembarkation card which is provided at the point of entry. This card has to be handed over at the immigration checkpoint together with the national passport or other internationally recognised travel document endorsed for travel into Malaysia.

Passports.
Passports are required for all visitors to Malaysia. They are also needed for travel between the Peninsular and East Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, and between Sabah and Sarawak.

Passport Validity.
Passports must be valid for at least three months beyond the date the visitor intends leaving Malaysia.

Visit Pass.
Any person wishing to visit Malaysia for a temporary stay can apply for a visit pass provided the passport and visa requirements are fulfilled. Normally, it would be advisable to apply for the visit pass before commencing the journey. The applicant must:

* intend a temporary stay only.
* have a sponsor resident in Malaysia.
* have adequate funds to maintain himself / herself during his / her stay in Malaysia.

* have sufficient funds to meet his / her fare to the next destination or country of origin.
* Visit passes issued for social visits do not permit visitors to engage in any form of business or profession.

Visa.
Commonwealth citizens (except from India and Sri Lanka), British Protected persons and citizens of the Republic of Ireland, Switzerland, Netherlands, San Marino and Lichenstein do not need a visa to enter Malaysia. Citizens of the United States, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Japan, Korea, Austria, Finland, Luxemborg, Iceland, Tunisia, Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mesir, Morocco, North Yemen, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turki and United Arab Emirates do not require a visa for a visit not exceeding three months. French nationals who intend to stay in Malaysia for more than a month are required to obtain a visa.

14-day Visa Free.
For citizens of Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria and South Yemen.

7-day Visa Free.
For citizens of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Russia and Yugoslavia.

One Month Visa Free.
For citizens of ASEAN countries, Laos and Kampuchea.

EXTENSION OF STAY.
Visitors to Malaysia on social visits can extend their stay to six months without any pre-conditions.

CUSTOMS ALLOWANCES.
Items such as cameras, watches, pens, lighters, cosmetics, perfume and portable cassette players are duty free in Malaysia. Visitors bringing in dutiable goods such as video equipment may have to pay a deposit (normally up to 50% of the value) for temporary importation, refundable when they leave. You are advised to carry the receipt of purchase. If you pay any tax or deposit, please ensure that you are given a receipt.

AGRICULTURAL RESTRICTIONS.
Plants and seeds may be imported into Malaysia under permit from the Director-General of Agriculture, Kuala Lumpur. Applications should be made before plants and seeds leave the exporting country. Importation of animals is controlled by regulations. For Peninsular Malaysia, import permits should be obtained from the Director-General, Veterinary

Services while in the case of Sabah and Sarawak, applications should be made to the Directors of Agriiculture of the respective states.

CURRENCY.
The unit of currency is the Malaysian Ringgit which is divided into 100 sen. Currency notes are issued in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1000 Ringgit. Coins are issued in 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 sen. Coins of one ringgit denomination are also in circulation.

ENQUIRY
For more information about Malaysia, kindly contact the Tourist Development Corporation of Malaysia (TDC) Overseas offices nearest to you.

OTHER GUIDE-BOOKS TO MALAYSIA.
The Tourist Development Corporation of Malayia (TDC) has a wide variety of guide-books to Malaysia. These include the Travel Planner, Special Interest brochures, Map & Guide series, (State brochure), Shopping Around Kuala Lumpur, Fascinating Adventures, Budget Accommodation, Duty-Free Shopping and many others. These guide-books are available free from TDC or any of its branches.

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TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS CARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY

Currency Exchange Rates:

1.	US$1.00	M$2.74
2.	£UK$1	M$4.94
3.	Japan Y100	M$2.19
4.	Spanish 100 peso	M$2.60
5.	Italia $1	M$2.25
6.	Dutch Mark $1	M$1.69

The exchange rates quoted is indicative only and is subject to change.

All information contained herein is current at time of printing. Whilst every care is taken in the preparation of this brochure, Tourist Development Corporation of Malaysian cannot be held responsible of any inaccuracy, omission or alteration that may occur.

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